Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Bertha Louise Kramer was born on April 9, 1903, to Albert and Frieda Kramer at Blairstown, Iowa, as the third oldest of their six children and by the age of 5 years, Bertha moved with her family to Elkton, South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Birthdays commemorate the first day of our lives, and we celebrate the birthdays of those we love as we recognize the joys and sorrows we have shared, the strength we have gained from the obstacles and hardships we have conquered, and the small daily pleasures life offers; and,

Whereas, Bertha married Alfred Bessler on February 6, 1923, by their minister at her parents home and to this union four children were born: Delmer, Elroy, Delores, and Geraldine; and,

Whereas, Bertha and Alfred spent their married life farming, where Mildred raised chickens, had a vegetable garden, helped with milking cows and feeding threshers as well as finding time to sew for her family, enjoy embroidering and tatting; and,

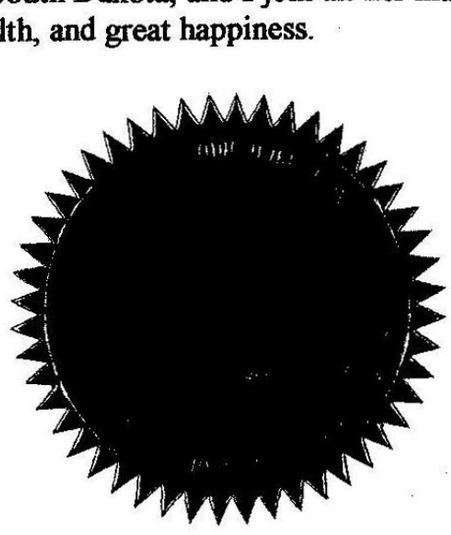
Whereas, Bertha and Alfred retired from farming in 1978, and found some time to travel after they moved into Elkton, and Bertha also participated in Hook & Needle Club, Ladies Aide, and Circle at United Parish, in addition to enjoying the busy lives of her 13 grandchildren, 31 great grandchildren and 4 great-great grandchildren; and,

Whereas, Bertha will observe her 100th Birthday with all the good wishes, fanfare, and celebration such a milestone warrants, as her friends and relatives gather to honor her and celebrate her life and the camaraderie of the day; and it is fitting and proper for the Governor to make note of this milestone in the life of a woman who has lived an exemplary life for all to emulate:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 9, 2003, as

BERTHA BESSLER DAY

in South Dakota, and I join all her many friends and relatives in wishing her a very happy birthday, good health, and great happiness.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Seventh Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State